

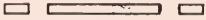
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THE RED TRIANGLE IN PEACE AND WAR



GENERAL PERSHING'S CHRISTMAS GREETING

"With a deep feeling of gratitude for the enormous contribution which the Army Young Men's Christian Association has made to the moral and physical welfare of the American Army, all ranks join me in sending you Christmas greetings and cordial best wishes for the New Year."—Gen. John J. Pershing, to E. C. Carter, chief of the Paris headquarters of the Army Y. M. C. A. in France, Dec. 25, 1918.



CRITICISMS ANSWERED

In pursuance with its policy of dealing openly and frankly with the public on all questions that may arise in connection with its work, this pamphlet is published by the National War Work Council, Y. M. C. A., as an answer to criticism that has been made against "Y" effort overseas, including operation of the canteens for the American Army in France.

ARMY Y. M. C. A. AUTHORIZED TO OPERATE CANTEEN.

After several conferences at General Pershing's Headquarters during the summer of 1917, it was agreed that the Army "Y" should take full charge of the canteen service, including the purchase of stock in America, in Great Britain, in France, and in the neutral countries of Europe.

Bulletin No. 33, issued by General Pershing's Chief of Staff, stated that all goods were to be sold at "Y" centers at purchase cost price, plus cost of transportation, with a slight margin added to cover goods lost in transit. The order also provided that the canteens were to be **operated by the "Y" as an agent acting under the general direction of the respective army officers and the plan was designed to release enlisted men for direct military service.** The colossal task of operating the canteen was undertaken by the Army Y. M. C. A. with full knowledge of the inevitable criticism which would follow.

STATEMENT BY DR. JOHN R. MOTT, GENERAL SECRETARY NATIONAL WAR WORK COUNCIL, Y. M. C. A.

So much criticism of Army Y. M. C. A. methods has been heard in the last few weeks that I have decided that the one thing to do in fairness to the millions who have subscribed to its fund, and in fairness to the Association itself, is to discuss in detail each criticism which has been raised. We have caused an investigation to be made and we are giving our conclusions. It may be that there will be further criticism. It is our judgment that this should be frankly and fearlessly faced. If we were to evade criticism, we would be false to our trust. As we recognize whatever of truth it contains, we will be able to profit by it and to amend our methods in such a manner as to give the maximum of service. There is another aspect. **Much of the criticism is utterly unfounded,** but only by challenging such criticism can the public have a clear conception of the facts in the case.

It is the history of every great effort that mistakes are made and no one, no matter how exalted his person or how unimpeachable his integrity, can escape. Other important organizations have passed through a similar experience. Much of the adverse comment is due to misconception or to partial knowledge. Among the criticisms most frequently heard concerning the Army Y. M. C. A. are the following:

OPERATION OF CANTEENS.

Question No. 1. Is it true that the Army Y. M. C. A. has been profiting by the operation of the canteens overseas?

It is not true that the Army Y. M. C. A. profited by the operation of canteens overseas. In the terms of Bulletin No. 33 from General Pershing's Headquarters, it was provided that if there were any profit derived from the canteens, the Army Y. M. C. A. would use it exclusively for the benefit of the men in the army. The discrepancy between the quartermaster prices and Army Y. M. C. A. prices was **investigated by the War Department**. The investigation proved they had lost thousands of dollars and that no profit was made.

Statement of Third Assistant Secretary of War F. P. Keppel.

Matter of prices asked by Army Young Men's Christian Association for its articles sold in canteen overseas already investigated by War Department and conditions being remedied. Army Y. M. C. A. originally asked by General Pershing to run canteen for army on cost basis. To do this had to reckon in price fixing such overhead charges as transportation charges and marine insurance so that prices were much higher than in this country. Army Young Men's Christian Association made no profit but lost thousands of dollars. Arrangements now made will enable them to obtain supplies from sources that will reduce overhead charges and keep prices down.

Statement of Raymond B. Fosdick, Chairman of War Department Commission on Training Camp Activities.

Raymond B. Fosdick, Chairman of the Commission on Training Camp Activities, upon returning from an investigation of auxiliary agencies in Europe, was quoted by the New York Times as saying:

"I should like to take this opportunity to remove a **misapprehension** about the Army Y. M. C. A. which has gained considerable ground not only with our fellows abroad, but with the people back home, and that is that the Army Y. M. C. A. is making money out of the canteens which it is operating for the forces. At General Pershing's request I went into this matter thoroughly and the report is absolutely without foundation. I mention this matter only because the widespread rumor is most unfair to an organization which is doing heroic service."

Prices Now Same as Charged by the Quartermaster.

All goods on sale to the A. E. F. in Army Y. M. C. A. canteens in France after November 1 will be sold at the same prices charged by the Quartermaster's stores. This announcement was made following the receipt of a cable from Paris stating that this arrangement, which the Army Y. M. C. A. has been trying for several months to make with the army authorities, had been granted by General Pershing.

General Pershing also has arranged that the canteen be extended to the huts of the Salvation Army and the Knights of Columbus. Thus all three organizations will become in a sense agents of the Quartermaster's Department, which will supply the goods to be sold, keep prices uniform, and arrange for part, at least, of the transportation.—From New York Sun, October 27, 1918.

HOW "GIFT TOBACCO" WAS SOLD.

Question No. 2. Is it true that gift tobacco was sold at Army Y. M. C. A. canteens overseas?

It is true that in a few cases gift tobacco was sold at Army Y. M. C. A. canteens, and the circumstances are these: The New York Sun, the Chicago Tribune, and possibly other parties, shipped tobacco to France in care of the Quartermaster, with the intention of having it distributed free to soldiers. Some portions of this tobacco, because cases were not sufficiently marked, were sold to the Army Y. M. C. A. by the Quartermaster and retailed in certain Army Y. M. C. A. canteens to soldiers at the price paid the Quartermaster. Later, when soldiers came to open these parcels, they found in them evidence that they had been intended for free distribution. In every case where these were returned to the Army Y. M. C. A. it furnished free an equivalent amount of tobacco from its own supplies. The New York Sun had investigated several stories of this kind and found the facts to be as stated above. **The Quartermaster concerned has also investigated the matter and fully exonerates the Army Y. M. C. A.**

History of an Incident in Which Army Y. M. C. A. Sold Gift Tobacco.

On Oct. 14th W. E. Stewart, Acting Divisional Secretary, purchased Piedmont cigarettes "16" from the Third Division Sales Commissary. On opening these it was found that each carton contained a postcard addressed by some individual or firm in the States indicating that the particular carton was a gift for the person to whom addressed and apparently intended for free distribution. The cases containing these cigarettes bore no marks to indicate the nature of the contents. Mr. Stewart reported the matter to the Third Division Sales Commissary and to the Y. M. C. A. of the Fifth Region. In response to this report Mr. Stewart received the following letter:

FROM: C. O., Sales Commissary Unit No. 4, A. P. O. 740 A. E. F.
TO: Y. M. C. A., 3rd Division, A. P. O. 740, A. E. F.
SUBJECT: Gift Cigarettes.

1. Through an error of the Supply Depot at Gievres, this commissary received several cases of Piedmont cigarettes, each carton of which contained a return post card stating that these cigarettes were a gift from "The New York Sun Tobacco Fund."

2. These cigarettes were sold you in case lots before this was discovered, there being no marks on the cases to indicate that this was gift tobacco. This matter has been taken up by this commissary with the Supply Depot at Gievres, and in all probability these cigarettes will be replaced.

(signed) C. P. HAFFLEY,

1st Lt., Q. M. C. U. S. A.,

Quartermaster."

Oct. 23, '18.

FURNISHES FREE SUPPLIES.

Question No. 3. Is it true that the Army Y. M. C. A. furnishes free nothing more than writing paper to men overseas?

It has been the policy of the Army Y. M. C. A. to give free service and not primarily free supplies. This policy has from the beginning commanded the approval of the Army authorities. Nevertheless the Army Y. M. C. A. service without charge to the soldiers, sailors and marines included in the war zone more than 1,900 huts, tents and buildings of various designs that served as home, church, club, and theatre; free entertainments by noted musical and theatrical stars, miles of motion pictures, postal and money transfer service; thousands of dollars' worth of athletic equipment and athletics directed by world-famous athletes; social, religious and educational activities. During one

month in the latter part of 1918 the Army Y. M. C. A. distributed free to soldiers in the front lines more than \$75,000 worth of supplies.

This is directly in line with action taken by the committee of eleven officially representing the seven welfare agencies recognized by the U. S. Government overseas as follows: "Except in the actual fighting areas there shall be no free distribution of supplies except where a permanent work is maintained by the organizations concerned."

AVOIDED DUPLICATION OF EFFORT.

Question No. 4. Is it true that the Army Y. M. C. A. has failed to keep in touch with the wounded and ill?

In order to prevent any duplication of effort overseas, an agreement was reached between the American Red Cross and the Army Y. M. C. A. This provided that the American Red Cross should concern itself with the care of the wounded and ill; the Army Y. M. C. A. and kindred organizations, with the well. Therefore under the agreement opportunities for service to the wounded and sick were limited.

RELEASED ALL MEN OF DRAFT AGE.

Question No. 5. Were men chosen for Army Y. M. C. A. work who were of draft age and fit for army service?

During the first months of the war, some men who were physically fit but had not yet been called for service were sent to France. Within a few months most of these men had volunteered for military service. The comparatively small number who remained as late as August of the present calendar year, were then notified that they must either enlist or leave the service of the Army Y. M. C. A. Practically all of these were divinity students and thereby exempted.

NO "BOMB-PROOF" JOBS FOR ARMY "Y" WORKERS.

Question No. 6. Is it true that the Army "Y" workers overseas did not go to the front lines but persistently dodged danger?

The best answer to this question is that since the Army "Y" went overseas to serve the American Expeditionary Force, nine of its workers have been killed by shell fire while on duty and twenty-nine were seriously gassed or wounded. In addition to this thirty-one have died in the service, chiefly as a result of exposure and overwork. It might also be of interest to add that ten have been cited for bravery or decorated. In the Argonne fight there were seven hundred "Y" secretaries, fifty of whom were women canteen workers, attached to the different fighting units. All of these workers remained in the danger zone and frequently under shell fire during the entire offensive.

RELIGIOUS ATTITUDE OF ARMY "Y" WORKERS.

Question No. 7. Is it true that the typical attitude of the Army Y. M. C. A. workers has been that of holier-than-thou persons?

This question is of special interest because we have recently been taken to task for the very opposite of that implied in this question. The charge has been earnestly pressed by not a few that the Army Y. M. C. A. has been untrue to its religious tradition and has not sufficiently set forth the claims of religion upon the soldiers. When an organization is criticised with equal strength by critics holding conflicting and directly opposing views, one comes to the conclusion that after all it must be holding a fairly straight course between extremes.

UNSYMPATHETIC WORKERS REPRIMANDED.

Question No. 8. Is it true that some of the overseas secretaries have been impatient in their dealings with the soldiers?

Considering the fact that many Army Y. M. C. A. workers continued at their posts for eighteen hours at a stretch, sometimes without meals, it would be but natural that a few might have lost their self-control and have manifested a wrong disposition; but we are glad to believe, in the light of the great mass of testimony, that this has not been the characteristic attitude of the vast majority of the workers. I have heard the complaint made by a few soldiers that certain of the Army Y. M. C. A. workers have been prone to pay more attention to the officers than to the enlisted men and that they have at times treated men who have come into the canteens in an unsympathetic and inhospitable manner. Wherever our supervisory secretaries have learned of these complaints, they have acted promptly and, to my knowledge, where the charges have been substantiated, have reprimanded the workers concerned and when it was felt a reprimand was not sufficient the workers were recalled and sent home.

CAREFUL IN SELECTION OF PERSONNEL.

Question No. 9. Is it true that the Army Y. M. C. A. has sent overseas men utterly unfit for the tasks they were called upon to perform?

It is not true in any sense that the Army Y. M. C. A. has given little thought to its selection of men for overseas service. It must be remembered that when the Army Y. M. C. A. began erecting the structure upon which to build its great work, it faced the condition where the young and physically fit man would necessarily look to the army and navy. **The Army Y. M. C. A. had the choice of the physically unfit and the men beyond the draft age.** It made the best possible selections from the available material. It erred in some instances. It was impossible for it to do otherwise. The men were needed instantly. But where the Army Y. M. C. A. detected any error or mistakes of judgment, it recalled the men it had selected. One instance of this shows that a man never even set his foot in France. The decision to recall him was made before his transport had tied up to the pier. Every possible effort was made to prevent the enrollment of men whose only conception of their mission was that of a junket. In this connection it will be interesting to note that the Army Y. M. C. A. have already sent over seven thousand men and fifteen hundred women, of whom fully five thousand are still there at work. When this large number is borne in mind, it should not be surprising that here and there, under the trying experiences of the work, there should be found men who are disqualified. It is our fixed practice to recall all such cases. Less than 200 cases from among the more than 8,500 men and women sent overseas have been returned for moral lapses, discourtesies, inadaptability or other reasons.

WAR DEPARTMENT APPROVES CURB ON RECRUITING.

Question No. 10. Is it true that the Army Y. M. C. A. has caused scores of men to be taken from gainful occupations and, after promising overseas service, turned them back without occupations.

It is true in certain cases. It is equally true of the Government of the United States, and other civilian organizations. And where the Army Y. M. C. A. has called scores, the army has called thousands to give up their gainful occupations. The Army Y. M. C. A. expended its energy in bringing men to New York City to embark for overseas service when the war came to an end; and it was still expected by the Army Y. M. C. A. that these men who had been called from gainful occupations would serve the troops in France. The War Department indicated strong preference that men should not be sent from this side but wherever possible should be taken from the Army overseas. It has recently announced that it will release officers and enlisted men, who are especially qualified to assist in the educational program and other activities of the organization. This will mean that soldiers in France can enter Army Y. M. C. A. service immediately. Of course, it involves a large saving in transportation but affects and embarrasses those men who were ready for overseas service. These men are in exactly the same position as officers and enlisted men discharged because the period of emergency, or the need for their services no longer exist. It is unfortunate and the sympathy of the Army Y. M. C. A. goes out to those. Their plight is one for which the Army Y. M. C. A. is in no way responsible and one which it cannot remedy. **Approval of the "Y" course** in restricting its secretaries bound overseas to educational, entertainment and physical work is expressed in the following letter from Secretary of War Baker:

Secretary Baker's Letter to Dr. Mott.

My dear Dr. Mott:

The War Department is in thorough agreement with the plan being followed by the National War Work Council of the Young Men's Christian Association and other organizations in refraining from sending overseas any further workers except those who are now absolutely essential.

As soon as the armistice was signed the War Department felt that with the exception of a few highly trained experts, who were needed immediately to fill vacancies in specified positions, no additional men should be sent abroad, not even where men were already under appointment and waiting to sail.

These men, who had been recruited for overseas work and were at the last moment disappointed, are worthy of praise, not only for their willingness to undergo arduous service, but also for their quick readjustment of plans when the sudden ending of hostilities prevented the consummation of their cherished hopes.

The action of these organizations in withholding overseas recruits should be understood as in direct accord with the wishes of the War Department and should not be the occasion of criticism.

Cordially yours,

(Signed) NEWTON D. BAKER,

Washington, Dec. 23, 1918.

Secretary of War.

THE "Y" HUT—A HOME FOR NEARLY THREE MILLION SOLDIER BOYS.

The "Y" has provided more than 1,900 huts, tents and buildings of various designs in the war zone and nearly 600 in the Army and Navy camps in the United States.

The "Y" hut is the soldiers' and sailors' church. No effort is made to force religion on any man, because no effort is necessary. The boys have welcomed the services and have been eager to accept millions of Scriptures and booklets provided.

Clubs, hotels, restaurants and rest areas have been provided. Entertainment facilities at leave resorts have been provided for more than 70,000 men every week in France.

Libraries are maintained in nearly all the Army Y. M. C. A. huts in co-operation with the American Library Association.

Writing material is furnished free to the fighting forces wherever they may happen to be.

Athletics under the direction of the world's noted athletes, are provided for the men when off duty. Equipment is furnished free.

Hundreds of tons of supplies have been shipped from this country for the boys over there. In one month—December, 1918—900,000 packages of biscuits, 1,650,000 pounds of chocolate, 90,000 cakes of soap, three million cigars, seventy million cigarettes and 50,000 pounds of cocoa to be sold at Quartermaster's prices were provided in the "Y" canteens. Other necessities in like proportion were provided during the same month. In the last three months of 1918 sales AT LESS THAN COST in "Y" canteens exceeded \$5,000,000 a month. The deficit sustained by the "Y" on these sales since August 1, 1918, is at the rate of between two and three millions of dollars, annually. This deficit will be paid out of the contributions to the Army Y. M. C. A.

Fighting men overseas send home more than \$3,000,000 each month through the "Y" banking and postoffice department. Service is free.

The world's leading educators are assisting the "Y" in setting up an extensive educational program that will fit the men for return to the duties of civil life.

The "Y" is co-operating with the government in activities incident to demobilization and reconstruction.

Miles of motion pictures and theatrical entertainments by famous stage stars are provided under the direction of the "Y." In a single month, October, the "Y" was giving 6,088 shows abroad.

The long arm of the Army Y. M. C. A. reaches all of the way with the boy—from the time he leaves home until he returns. On the troop trains, in the training camps, at the port of embarkation, on the transports, right up to the front line trenches and back again you will find a "Big Brother" of the "Y" always on the job and willing to serve. Wherever you find a soldier or sailor you will find evidence of the loving care of the folks back home expressed through the Army Y. M. C. A.